



Important Action Summary Transportation Advisory Committee April 17, 2013

Action Items

- 1. Conflict of Interest Policy Statement**
- 2. Approve Minutes of March 20, 2013**
- 3. Reports, Concerns, and Discussion from MPO Area Towns**

There were none.

4. Public Comments

Bill Greene, Pleasant Garden Town Council Member, thanked the MPO staff with assisting the Town of Pleasant Garden.

5. Congestion Management Process Adoption – The Congestion Management Process (CMP) is required by the FHWA for MPOs with an urban area population over 200,000. It is required to help validate road improvements and has performance measures to track the effects of improvements on reducing traffic congestion. Another goal of the CMP is to identify strategies for reducing congestion without adding extra capacity to the roadway. T. Dianne Bellamy-Small asked for more information about traffic congestion on Route 29 and what factors the CMP takes into account when modeling future congestion. Lydia McIntyre explained that they look at peak periods when traffic is greatest and consider strategies to encourage employers to give employees options on when they can work or encourage telecommuting, for example. Congestion information is also gathered for transit routes, including GTA and PART. Cheryl McQueary asked if the FHWA Certification Review had any comments that would significantly change the CMP document. Bill Marley said that there were only minor edits that were suggested by FHWA. Bellamy-Small suggested that consideration be made to predicting how congestion would change under different scenarios, including the reduction of transit service from PART and the effects of increased economic development. TAC voted unanimously to adopt the CMP.

6. Bicycle Month Recognition – TAC voted to create a resolution declaring May as Bike Month.

7. MPO Self-certification – TAC voted to certify that the MPO is in compliance with applicable federal laws and associated procedural requirements.

8. UPWP Adoption – For FY 2014, the MPO will receive over \$400,000 in planning grants from FHWA and over \$100,000 in transit planning funds. Major planning studies and work for the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program include completing the next Transportation Improvement Program, updating the Long Range Transportation Plan, updating the BiPed Plan, roadway and greenway studies, data collection for the CMP and traffic demand model, and the creation of a better freight model. TAC voted to adopt the FY 2014 UPWP.

9. MPO Boundaries Structure & Governance Report – The MPOs of the Piedmont Triad region have been working well together and that PART's development of the regional model has been very helpful to the MPOs. Robbie Perkins stated that it would be helpful if PART was better integrated with the transit systems in the region, at least from a branding perspective. T. Dianne Bellamy-Small suggested that the issue be raised at a PART board meeting. Adam Fischer stated that there is good movement between High Point, Winston-Salem, and Greensboro, but not always in the rural areas. Cheryl McQueary requested clarification on how the region's public transit systems could be better integrated. Perkins said that combining marketing efforts with PART would come first, and then later there could be consideration of merging the region's transit systems. The TAC voted to endorse the MPO Boundaries, Structure and Governance Report.

10. MTIP Amendment: EB-5518 Latham Park Greenway/Hill Street Road Diet – This project would improve connections to the Downtown Greenway, Lake Daniel Greenway, and Atlantic & Yadkin Greenway. Hill Street would be converted from a four-lane roadway to a three-lane roadway to allow for widening of the Greenway area. NCDOT would be responsible for the cost of the project, since it scored highly in their prioritization process, but \$10,000 city funds would be required for ROW costs. TAC voted unanimously to amend the MTIP for the Latham Park Greenway/Hill Street Road Diet.

Business Items

- 1. USDOT MPO Certification Findings** – FHWA and FTA reviewed the Greensboro Urban Area's MPO Certification to confirm that it is in compliance with US DOT's Metropolitan Planning regulations. The MPO is in compliance with metropolitan transportation planning requirements. Several recommendations were made to augment the practices and processes of the MPO, but no corrective actions are required.
- 2. Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan** – The Coordinated Plan must be updated to comply with changes from the passage of MAP-21. Key changes that will be made include an analysis of demographic and service trends, an updated selection process, and the listing of projects in the Plan. The Coordinated Plan will go through a public review period in May and will go to the TAC for adoption at the June meeting.
- 3. Transportation Alternatives Program** – This program replaces the Transportation Enhancements Program. The MPO will be able to prioritize about \$320,000 annually in federal funds to be granted to local governments for bicycle, pedestrian, roadway beautification and other projects. A competitive selection process is required to award these projects to local governments, and staff is looking at model processes.
- 4. Strategic Reports** – The Public Participation Plan needs to be clarified regarding TIP amendment procedures, and the change will be put out for public comment in May. In addition, the State Ethics Act Statement of Economic Condition should have been filed by April 15. The required training can be completed online through training modules, or at live trainings throughout the state.
- 5. Project Updates** – Lydia McIntyre went to a meeting on the Johnson Street/Sandy Ridge project in the High Point MPO. The Greensboro MPO's recommendation is to widen Sandy Ridge Road from Market Street to I-40, but High Point MPO has not decided on a design yet. It is currently an unfunded project.

The MPO is still awaiting information on the Reedy Fork Parkway project.

Craig McKinney attended a public hearing map review on the McLeansville Road Grade Separation Project. A design has been selected, which would impact three or four residential structures and three commercial structures. A public hearing will be held in May.

McKinney attended a public meeting on the Battleground/Benjamin Cone Intersection project. There were some concerns about the southwestern corner of the project. Several commercial properties will lose parking spaces and accessing the properties during construction may be difficult. The project scored highly on NCDOT's prioritization process and construction should begin in 2014.

Planning for the transportation future

Other Items

1. **Board Member Update** – Cheryl McQueary introduced herself to the TAC and gave a history of her public service. She is looking forward to working on the TAC.
2. **Regional Updates**
3. **Wrap-Up** – The next TAC meeting will take place on May 22.